

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last paragraph on page 5 with the following amended paragraph.

B1 In yet another embodiment of the present invention the halogenated metal phthalocyanine used is prepared as described and claimed in co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/804,985, filed March 13, 2001.

Please replace the last paragraph on page 18 (paragraph (e)) with the following amended paragraph:

B2 -- (e) In the present process regeneration of catalyst on the bed is easily done. --

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 5 to 9 and 13 to 20 as follows:

B3 1. (Amended) A process for fixed bed sweetening of petroleum distillates using halogenated metal phthalocyanine as a catalyst which comprises: impregnating the catalyst on an activated charcoal bed by circulating an alcoholic alkaline solution of the catalyst through said activated charcoal bed until a colourless solution is obtained in the effluent, thereby obtaining a catalyst impregnated charcoal bed, passing the petroleum distillate through said catalyst impregnated charcoal bed along with air or oxygen at a temperature in the range of 20°C to 100°C at a pressure in the range of 1 kg/cm² to 15kg/cm² with a liquid hourly space velocity in the range of 1hr⁻¹ to 15hr⁻¹ with continuous or intermittent injection of alkali solution of concentration in the range of 0.5-20%, to obtain the